582

THE CHURCHES IN ACTION

NEWS LETTER

OF THE

UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL FOR LIFE AND WORK

AND THE

WORLD ALLIANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE CHURCHES

The above-mentioned organisations are not officially responsible for the opinions expressed in this News Letter
Reprint invited. Acknowledgement will be appreciated.

Price : 2 Swiss francs a year. Post Cheque No. I. 572. Geneva. H.-L. HENRIOD, *General Secretary.*

No. 7 2, RUE DE MONTCHOISY, GENEVA FEBRUARY 1935

EDITORIAL

As the New Year takes its course, we may perhaps look back over the year that has passed and draw up, as it were, its balance-sheet, so that we may see where we stand for the future. Material contingencies play a large part in the accomplishment of the tasks facing the Universal Christian Council and the World Alliance. In spite of the periods of anxiety through which we have passed, we feel none the less grateful that necessary means have been forthcoming and that we may regard the material prospects for 1935 as, on the whole, encouraging.

On the international plane, 1934, in comparison with the years that preceded it, was darker, and even menacing. It is indeed with justification that it has been called " the year of crimes ". The danger of a general conflagration was averted, but violent conflicts cost many human lives in South America and in Europe. Austria passed through two grave crises : the Socialist revolt of February, mercilessly put down, and the odious murder of Chancellor Dollfuss. France experienced the tragic night of February 6 and the murder of King Alexander of Yugoslavia and of M. Barthou. In Germany, June 30 told a sinister tale. In Latvia the Russian Archbishop was assassinated ; in Russia, the murder of the Soviet Minister Kirov was followed by hundreds of summary executions by way of reprisal. These are known crimes, but to them must be added crimes and sufferings, more numerous still, resulting from the economic and political upheaval, from the famine in Russia, from persecutions in Mexico and Iraq, from the repercussions of the revolution in Spain, from dissension in the Far East, and occurring wherever violence has been given a free rein.

And yet, in spite of these tragic happenings, in spite of the abandonment of the work of the Disarmament Conference and the impotence which paralysed the League of Nations with its member-states seeking alliances elsewhere and beginning once more, with Germany and Japan, the race for armaments, the year 1934 has ended, and the year 1935 begun, with signs of political improvement which give promise of better days. Germany and Poland have concluded a ten years' pact. France and Italy have reached an even more significant agreement. The entry of the U.S.S.R. into the League of Nations, — although liberty of conscience for their ' subjects ' was not demanded of them, — seems to open the way for others to return to Geneva and for new and important additions to the support through which alone the League can be assured of incontestible authority. That authority was, none the less, revealed on the occasion of the serious dispute that arose out of the murder of Alexander of

Yugoslavia, and perhaps even more by the remarkable manner in which the Saar plebiscite was carried out when, for the first time, international troops were placed with complete success at the disposal of the League of Nations.

The Christian Churches, too, shared in 1934 in the disorder and sufferings to which numerous countries fell victims. They have felt the economic crisis ; still more, they have suffered and are still suffering from the increasing claim of the State to disregard religious liberties that have been won in the course of the centuries, and to make of the Churches the docile servants of the State. Religious persecutions systematically carried out in Russia, anti-clerical violence in Mexico, a conflict growing in gravity in Germany, distressed Protestant minorities in Austria, anguish in Iraq, where the Assyrian Christian community is without defence — such is one side of the account of the repercussions of the political year on the Christian Church. But the other side reveals that it is in the Churches that are really beneath the Cross and in countries severely tested, that the most striking manifestations appear of spiritual reawakening, of deepening faith and of the power of the Gospel.

In the different international Christian movements, the year 1934 brought renewed conviction and definite proof that their task is more essential than ever. The meetings of Faith and Order, the International Missionary Council, the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A. and the World's Student Christian Federation were marked by a depth of thought and a keener sense of the solidarity by which all their members are united, and this by reason, even, of national political divergences.

As for the Universal Christian Council and the World Alliance, their members at Fanø lived through solemn hours in which the vision of their task, both now and in the future, took very clear form. The enthusiasm and conviction of their Youth section, the encouraging development of the International Christian Press and Information Service and, very particularly, the reception given to the publications of the Universal Christian Council's Research Department and to the results of the conferences of experts, indicate a progress which the editor of *The Student World* points out in his latest issue in the following terms : " The Ecumenical Movement comes of age . . . It can count now on the collaboration of those of our modern Christian thinkers who have no time to spare for any but relevant and thorough pieces of Christian collaboration."

Will 1935 see deception succeeding to the hopes with which it began ? A falling back still further in international relations, increased suffering, or a slow but lasting improvement ? Whatever may come, the task of the Churches and the duties of Christians are from now on clear and definite. In his New Year message, widely broadcast, the Archbishop of Canterbury insisted on the immediate need for a " recovery of soul ". It is only by an unwavering obedience to conscience, through which God speaks, and in being, without any compromise, the servants of the law of God, — the divine law which human laws claim to replace, — that the Churches and their members will be in a position to respond to the demands of their Master. Confusedly still, but more consciously than a few years back, the Churches are realising that it is their vital concern to unite their forces in a common front against the multiform forces of evil, against the claims of a materialist Marxianism or of a totalitarian conception of the State which give proof of the secularisation of our epoch. The Churches are attaching more and more importance to ecumenical action and are better understanding their responsibilities in this matter. In America, as in Europe and elsewhere as well, it is realised that the struggle in which the Christian Church is engaged is not directed against the State as such, or against this or that line of thought, but against the renewal of paganism with which present-day states and ideologies are impregnated and of which the Churches are feeling the effects.

That is why the plans which the Universal Christian Council and the World Alliance have in view, for this and for the next few years, as outlined in the following pages and in Dr. Oldham's remarkable pamphlet *The State, the Church and the Community*[1], are worth particular attention and demand the active collaboration of all their supporters. All emphasis must be given to the conviction of those at the head of the Ecumenical Movement that an urgent world-wide task is imposed upon them and upon all the Churches. It is no longer a matter of groping for contacts and collaboration. In the present bewildering situation, the common road is marked out by God Himself. If the Ecumenical Movement were of merely human construction, it would not have been able to stand up to the shocks of political events, or to the economic and moral crisis during which it has come to maturity. It has emerged fortified. But, if it is to fulfil the tasks before it, the active spiritual, intellectual and material cooperation will be required of all for whom the Kingdom of God is a fundamental reality in a world menaced and corrupted by sin.

H.L.H.

---

[1] See page 3.

LIFE AND WORK

THE TOTALITARIAN CLAIM OF THE STATE AND THE CHRISTIAN CONCEPTION OF FREEDOM

The above is the subject chosen for the next Ecumenical Study Conference which, at the joint invitation of the Dutch branches of the Universal Christian Council and the World Alliance, will take place in Holland from May 2-8. The work on this problem, which is one of almost unprecedented moment, is based on the results of the last Ecumenical Study Conference, of Paris, at which the whole framework for a Christian re-thinking of the state problem was drafted in broad outline. The preparatory work will once more be carried out through study conferences in the Churches of the Universal Christian Council, with the assistance of schemes and suggestions which have been placed at their disposal by the Research Department, and which are available for all study groups and collaborators in these questions.

The task of these preparatory groups will consist primarily in outlining in definite terms the various types of the Christian understanding of the freedom of human personality and of the various forms of human associations and social institutions, on the cultural, social and economic field; the groups will also seek to define the totalitarian tendencies in the political theory and practice of today, together with their essential causes. This method of approach should lead to the definition of the attitude of the individual Christian, of a particular Church and of ecumenical Christianity as a whole, towards the totalitarian claims of the modern state. Of special importance, within the sphere of this thorough, basic discussion, will be such questions as those concerning the freedom of the worker within industrialism, and the problem of vocation; the rights of national minorities, the attitude of the Church to the war problem and to the question of international arbitration as well as the particular problem of conscientious objection, and that of education. Consideration from particular points of view will have to be given to a number of those questions which are of special present-day importance and urgency for the younger Churches of the mission field, in connection with the colonial problem. For the discussion of the Ecumenical Study Conference itself, the first results of the ecumenical study groups on Christian anthropology and on the kingdom of God and history, which will assemble for a study meeting shortly beforehand, will provide important material and insight.

FURTHER PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF 1937

In response to a request by the Universal Christian Council, Dr. J.H. Oldham, the Chairman of the Advisory Commission on Research, has written a pamphlet entitled *Church, Community and State*, published by the Student Christian Movement Press, 58 Bloomsbury Street, London W.C.1., at the price of 1/-. It contains a thorough analysis of the main questions that will engage the attention of the Conference and an explanation of the important preparations that are being made for it. In this bold and comprehensive presentation of the present situation in the world, the problems and tasks with which the Christian Church is faced emerge with striking force in their actuality and immediacy. These tasks demand of every Christian and of all Churches a renewed devotion which it is hoped the pamphlet may help to evoke. The pamphlet provides for the clergy and ministers and for the thoughtful laity in all the Churches a picture of the problems and tasks which confront the Christian Church in its relation to the nation and the state, and will be of special help to individuals and groups, more particularly in Anglo-Saxon countries, in preparatory study for the proposed conference. This purpose will also be furthered by the publication of the second and enlarged edition of the volume *Die Kirche und das Staatsproblem in der Gegenwart*, the first edition of which, published six months ago, is already exhausted. The new edition contains fresh papers by Professor Zankow (Sofia) on " Church and Nation in the Orthodox East "; a profound contribution from Professor B. Vyscheslavzeff, a member of the Russian Academy of Paris, on " The Religious Meaning of Power "; and one by Dr. Oldham on " Church and State ", which complete and enrich in a valuable way the earlier edition. There will also be published shortly by the Student Christian Movement Press a smaller volume in English under the title " *Christian Faith and the Modern State* ". This will provide some of the most important basic material for an understanding of the Christian conception of the state. In the English edition the whole material has been rearranged in systematic form by the Rev. N. Ehrenström, the Associate Director of the Research Department, and presents a survey of the main tendencies of recent political and theological thought, more particularly on the Continent of Europe.

A report on important literature dealing with political ethics and giving a summary of the

main problems involved will also be published shortly by the Research Department.

Reference may also be made to the publication in French of important documentation bearing on the subject of Conscientious Objection,[1] which in a number of countries and Churches has become a question of outstanding importance in the discussions of the relations between Church and State. It will include a summary of the principal legislation on the subject and an account of the growth of the movement. In a further publication which is in preparation a summary will be given of the principal points of view and of the main questions demanding further study.

The French edition of the study volume *Kirche, Bekenntnis und Sozialethos* which, through the friendly cooperation of Dr. Elie Gounelle, will appear shortly, provides new opportunities for the international exchange of ideas and of extending the study of the problem of the state to wider circles, since the volume contains valuable contributions on the problem of the Church and the State. In this connection reference may also be made to the book by Paul Conord : *Du principe d'une Sociologie chrétienne*, which, in the framework of French theology, throws fresh light on the questions with which the ecumenical programme of research has been concerned since 1930.

THE CHURCHES AND THE GODLESS MOVEMENT

The English translation of the report made on the Churches and the Godless Movement by the Research Department of the Universal Christian Council is now available, in multigraphed form. The price is Sw. fr. 0.50 (6 d, $0.10). The report contains a survey of the different forms of the Godless Movement ; the realisation of the Communist Godless Movement in Soviet Russia ; Godless propaganda all over the world ; the work of the Godless in Germany, Austria, England and Switzerland ; and a list of books.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Administrative Committee met in London on January 28 and 29. It was noted with satisfaction that the financial situation had improved and that in all sections of the Council a keen interest was evident in the preparations for the world conference of 1937. The place and the exact date of this conference will be decided upon by the Executive Committee at its next meeting, which will take place in or near Geneva from August 18 to 22.

Dr. J.H. Oldham submitted the study plans of the 1937 conference committee, of which he is the chairman. The work will be carried out in stages through study groups, as indicated above, a large number of which are already at work in different countries ; and through publications on the more important aspects of the question of Church, State and Community.

The activity of the Research Department was approved by the Committee, which also received various reports from Dr. A. Keller, in particular on the plans for the Ecumenical Seminar of 1935.

The Committee examined the developments in the Church situation in Germany. It expressed once more, in a communiqué forwarded to the Press, the hope that a solution of the conflict that is so deeply disturbing the life of the Churches of the Reich will soon be found, in the spirit of the Gospel and on the basis of the principles of the Reformation, so that the German Church may take up again with the other Churches the gigantic tasks imposed upon them by the present world situation.

WORLD ALLIANCE

The Traffic in Armaments

The World Alliance has been in regular contact in Geneva during recent months with other Christian organisations which are concerned with the disarmament problem and peace, and has taken part in the deliberations of the International Consultative Group in which these organisations are represented, for discussion of such issues.

Attention has inevitably been concentrated on the question of the control of the munitions trade, and on the best means of taking advantage of the opportunity for the further enlightenment of public opinion afforded by the revelations of the American Senate enquiry into this traffic. The first phase of the investigations has disclosed the existence of an elusive and complicated international relationship between America and Europe and an identity of purpose in the utterly callous aim of making profits out of war. The evidence has brought to light instances of the deflection, for the purchase of armaments, of loans intended for the purchase

[1] See page 12.

of cotton, grain and other commodities; the lending of American army and navy officers to foreign Governments as instructors in the use of American armaments, with a view to the promotion of sales for private firms; the circumvention, by international arrangement, of national laws relating to the export of arms, and a wholesale use of bribery.

Every recognition should be given to the efforts that, whatever may be said to the contrary, have already been made in other quarters to open the eyes of the public to the evils caused by the private manufacture of arms. But it cannot be denied that the Nye Committee, empowered as it is by the Senate to examine and expose ruthlessly to publicity the most private of correspondence and negotiations, has already advanced the struggle towards international legislation for the riddance of a great peril to a stage from which public opinion cannot and must not let it fall back. The Committee resumed its activities in December last, and it is encouraging to read that an increased allocation on its behalf is to be demanded of Congress.

U. S. Proposals

In the meantime, the earnest attention of the national councils of the World Alliance is drawn to the implications of the concrete proposals submitted by the United States to the Disarmament Conference. These proposals (as summarised by Mr. Hugh R. Wilson, of the American Delegation), allow for : equal treatment for private and state factories, thus removing an obstacle that has prevented progress for ten years ; the assumption of complete responsibility by the State ; a system of publicity whereby public opinion will be in touch with every stage in the production of an armament and will have advance information of its eventual production ; and international supervision.

To all this constructive effort towards the allaying of mutual fear and suspicion and the establishment of international peace, hostility, both commercial and political, is to be expected. It made its appearance early in the hearings of the Nye Committee's report and it will undoubtedly come again. But if ever there was a responsibility calling for international unity of action, it is this one of resisting, by force of world-wide public opinion, all attempts to sidetrack and suppress armaments investigations. It is a question that, studied nationally, at once becomes international. One country cannot uncover its own discrepancies in this matter without revealing parallel conditions in other countries, elaborate ramifications founded on a complete absence of decent feeling and an enemy that is common to the whole of mankind. Upon such organisations as the World Alliance rests the obligation of doing all in their power to foster an incorruptible public opinion upon a subject in which such vital issues are at stake.

* * *

Since we last went to press, information has reached us of anti-war manifestations by Christian organisations in different parts of the world.

A Ministry of Peace

From the Council of Churches in New South Wales comes a copy of the resolution which it forwarded to the Prime Minister of the Australian Commonwealth, denouncing " the madness of the Governments of the world in building up armaments which experience has amply proved can only lead to war, and on each successive occasion to a war of a more deadly character " ; deploring the intention of the British Government and of its own Government to increase expenditure on armaments ; supporting the prohibition by all nations of the manufacture and sale of armaments ; appreciating, but urging a still greater extension of, Australia's support of the League of Nations and, finally, begging the Prime Minister " to consider seriously the creation of a Ministry of Peace, whose chief aim shall be the promotion of international understanding and co-operation within the League of Nations — the justification of which would be that ' to ensure peace, we must prepare for peace ' ".

Renunciation of Preparedness for War

The Church Peace Union has sent us from New York its manifesto against war, drawn up before the Nye Committee got to work, but proved, by the outcome of that Committee's investigations, to have gone to the root of the matter in stating : " We must attack the institutions which breed war. One of these is private armament firms. They make big profits for their stockholders and are able to subsidise newspapers of the baser sort . . . If guns and warships are to be manufactured at all, their manufacture must be lodged in the hands of the Government. This is one of the first steps toward universal peace." In particular the manifesto urges the renunciation of preparedness for war : " It is not enough to renounce war. We should cease to prepare for it. If we prepare for it, it will come, whether we renounce it or not. It is futile to renounce it on paper if we prepare for it in our navy yards. The way

of escape is easily seen. All war preparations should cease. That is what the spirit is saying to the Churches and this is what the Churches should say to the nations."

* * *

Lack of space prevented our calling attention, in the November issue of *The Churches in Action*, to the appeal for complete disarmament issued by the Society of Friends in England. It calls for a realisation that " the Christ spirit in its full meaning and power applies to national as well as to individual conduct ; that just as we seek for the good in and for every man, so our approach to every nation should also be in the spirit and practice of genuine fellowship and love ; peaceful relations cannot be fostered by armaments, which antagonise those who might otherwise live in friendship . . . We are called to become instruments of the active spirit of love in the world's life. Our belief is that this nation should conquer its fears and give the world an example of complete disarmament. Such an act of faith would bring to the world a new hope and a new courage, a changed atmosphere in which it would be possible to reach that international understanding for which the peoples of the world are waiting. Thus will our Christian belief in the fatherhood of God and the relationship of his children lead us along the paths of international righteousness to a fuller life for all mankind."

* * *

We beg the national councils of the Alliance to send us news of progress made in their respective spheres in the spread of the will for disarmament and international understanding. It is essential for us to be kept informed of the work of the national councils in this matter, so that we may not feel isolated from them and so that we may also help to keep them in touch with one another.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met in London, on January 25 and 26, under the chairmanship of Lord Dickinson. Illness or other reasons prevented several members attending, but the Committee none the less accomplished a good deal of work.

It was noted in the first place that since the Fanø meeting the secretaries of the Alliance had been very active on its behalf in a number of countries : Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Roumania, Yugoslavia, France and Austria, and that, thanks largely to Professor Siegmund Schultze's visit to Warsaw in December, the Council of the Protestant Churches of Poland, which had not met for several years on account of serious difficulties and misunderstandings, had been able to resume its activities.

The Committee received reports from the International Christian Press and Information Service and from the Youth Commission which indicated very encouraging progress. The financial situation for the past year was found to be normal ; almost all the National Councils had responded to the appeal of the Central Fund, and economies effected in administration had made an approximate balance between receipts and expenditures possible.

The Committee then went into the plans in hand for the year 1935. Two, and possibly three, regional conferences are in preparation : a Balkan conference in Dalmatia, for the Orthodox countries, on the problem of peace, the attitude of Orthodox Christians to the League of Nations, the relations between Church and State and the specific tasks facing the Alliance in the Balkans ; and a regional conference for the Baltic countries, to be held at Tallinn, Estonia, at the beginning of September, at which representatives from the Scandinavian Churches will also be present. The programme includes studies of the situation of the Church and of the religious minorities in the countries represented ; the religious situation in Russia ; the question of disarmament ; Church and State. If political conditions permit, a regional conference for the Latin countries will be held in Spain shortly after Easter.

A programme was also drafted by the Executive Committee for the Plenary Assembly of the Alliance, the last sessions of which took place in Cambridge in 1931. In 1935 they will be held from August 12 to 18 probably at Geneva. The first day will be devoted to a discussion of " The Church and Politics ", followed by a survey, from the viewpoint of the Christian conscience, of post-war international effort (especially in so far as the League of Nations, arbitration and disarmament are concerned). The succeeding days will be taken up with a discussion of such problems as minorities, and religious minorities in particular, the traffic in arms and civil service for conscientious objectors. A list of outstanding speakers on these various questions has been drawn up. A three-day conference of the " Minorities Commission ", in which several experts from outside will also take part, will be held from August 8-10, with a view to preparing the discussion on this particularly delicate and important topic.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the World Alliance was followed by a session of the Consultative Group of the leaders of the Alliance and of the Universal Christian Council. The group decided that instead of holding their meetings this year jointly, as was done at Fanø, the two movements should meet in succession with one day, Sunday August 18, the closing day of the plenary assembly of the World Alliance and the opening day of the Executive Committee of the Universal Christian Council, for joint activity and the celebration of a solemn service.

The regional conferences in the Baltic and Balkan countries which the Alliance has in view will be held with the collaboration of the Universal Christian Council and of its Research Department, as far as the subject of Church and State is concerned, in the same way as for the study conference to be held in Holland early in May, and referred to elsewhere in these columns.

The group also considered important proposals that had been submitted to both movements by the Swedish Ecumenical Committee on the subject of the desirability of organising a plebiscite in several countries on disarmament. A letter in this connection was addressed to the various national organisations of the two movements, signed by the two chairmen, with a view to ascertaining whether such an undertaking, similar to the plebiscites already organised in Great Britain and America, on the initiative of certain lay groups, could and should be carried out by the Christian Churches, or at least with their support.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND ORDER

Preparations for 1937 World Conference

The 1935 meeting of the Continuation Committee will be held at Hindsgaul, Middelfart, Denmark from August 4 to 7. The main business will be the further definition of the programme for the 1937 World Conference. The meeting at Hertenstein last September served to show that the programme provisionally drafted in 1930 would need considerable revision in the light of subsequent events in world-history and church life. During the past winter the Committee's secretary, Canon Hodgson, has been collecting opinions from various quarters, with a view to ensuring that the policy of the Movement shall be related to live currents of thought in the Christian churches. By the time that these notes are published, the Executive Committee will have met and considered these various opinions, and produced recommendations based on them for discussion at Hindsgaul.

Local Discussion Groups

An important part of the work of the Movement has always been the promotion of local study groups, in which members of different churches meet to discuss the issues which hinder Christian reunion. The organisation of these groups is normally the work of individual members of the Continuation Committee, but in the summer of 1933 the Executive Committee circulated a number of carefully drafted questions with the suggestion that groups might be formed to study them during the following winter and send in reports of their discussions to the Secretary. Some sixteen such reports were sent in, coming from groups in America, the Channel Islands, France, Germany, Great Britain, New Zealand, Norway, Scotland, South Africa and Sweden. An abstract of these reports is being prepared for issue in pamphlet form, and the following is a specimen of the work that has been done.

Is any structure or constitution necessary to make the Church what God wills it to be, and to maintain its unity ? If so, must it be a single uniform constitution, or may the functions of the One Church be discharged through parallel organisations, under a federal constitution or otherwise ?

Berlin, Germany. Without raising doctrinal questions about episcopacy the Group thinks the episcopal office serves to promote unity. There need not be any one constitution. The functions of the One Church could be performed by a " bündische Verfassung ", as exemplified in Orthodoxy.

Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany. The criterion of the constitution of the church is the extent to which it gives free scope for the preaching of the Gospel and " charismatic " service. There is no need of any one particular constitution : in certain circumstances unity might be better promoted by multiformity than by uniformity.

Halle, Germany. The New Testament gives the outlines of the constitution, especially (i) everything in the church must be made depend-

ent on the will of Christ ; (ii) the church is not built upon its office-holders, who are its servants, but upon its congregations, who are called *ecclesiae* as the whole church is *ecclesia*. Nothing is said in these outlines about the outward form of the church, which can vary according to the needs of the historical situation, so long as the unity of the whole is strenuously maintained.

Herrnhut, Germany. According to the New Testament, no particular structure or constitution is necessary. Nor is the unity of the church dependent on any single constitution ; it is a matter of faith, and the inner unity creates its outward form, which may vary.

Jersey, The Channel Islands, considered this question empirically, studying six actual approaches to unity.

(1) Anglicans and Old Catholics have re-established intercommunion without federation or organic union or any common governing body.

(2) The South India Scheme (1933 edition) leads to the conclusion that a definite structure and constitution is necessary.

(3) The United Church of Canada was limited to three denominations, Anglicans and Baptists being unable to come in owing to convictions about structure and constitution. This limitation shows negatively the importance of these matters.

(4) This question did not arise in the Scottish union.

(5) The English Methodist union witnesses to the imperative necessity of organic unity : the uniting churches could not discharge the function of the church through parallel organisations, notwithstanding the harmony of faith and order found within them.

(6) The Scandinavian Lutheran Churches are in communion with one another as parallel churches with similar episcopal constitutions. Presence or absence of apostolic succession is no barrier.

Conclusion : There is a tendency towards a common structure and a common constitution : little evidence of desire to effect reunion by the recognition of parallel organisations within one structure.

Tullibody by Cambus, Scotland. Some structure is necessary, but there need not be one uniform constitution.

L. Hodgson.

THE WORLD ALLIANCE OF Y.M.C.A.'s

The Y.M.C.A.'s are feeling the effects of general conditions. The economic situation, for instance, has led to certain modifications in the state of mind of the American associations. Political and ecclesiastical events have compelled the German associations to transform their activities. In China, Mexico, Latvia, various factors, at first sight but remotely connected with the essential tasks of the associations, have forced the Y.M.C.A. leaders in those countries to revise their organisation and method of action. One of the most serious consequences of the crisis has been that the International Committee of the national alliances of the United States and Canada has felt obliged to reduce the number of secretaries sent to many countries. In 1928 these secretaries numbered 190, but they were reduced in 1934 to 38. The disturbance caused by this unforeseen withdrawal might have been disastrous, but thanks to much sacrifice and devotion, it has been possible to maintain the work almost everywhere.

The World's Committee, at its plenary session at Oxford in July last, carefully examined the movement's situation in the world. The co-ordinating function of the Committee as an international agent was more clearly formulated than has been done in the past ; its rôle as one of the representatives of Christian Youth in the international centre at Geneva was recognised and its task in the sphere of education, with a view to increasing the understanding between nations, emphasised. The duties of the Committee from now on in the matter of the world extension of the movement were definitely fixed. In 1935 various courses, camps and conferences will be held, as well as meetings of the Executive Committee and the Committees for Extension and Message. The next World's Conference will probably take place in Asia in two or three years' time.

In a message addressed to the associations, the World's Committee indicated its desire to concentrate attention on the great spiritual problems and to take up a position as regards the new paganism and present day materialism, calling on the associations to seek for the necessary strength by a more and more thorough consecration.

H. J.

RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES

Information received from the High Commission for Refugees (Jewish and others) coming from Germany [1] indicates that the High Commission has in view some 1,500 non-Jewish refugees who should be settled by emigration overseas, 1,200 of them by absorption into existing communities by the method of " infiltration settlement ". Many of these refugees are

[1] Address : Sentinel House, Southampton Row, London, W. C. I.

artisans or skilled tradesmen who should not be difficult to settle and for whom the cost would amount to about £50 per head. For the remaining 300, who are suited to and anxious for settlement overseas, and who are for the most part agricultural workers, a scheme is on foot for their emigration to the Parana province of Brazil, where the land originally proposed for the settlement of the Assyrians of Iraq is available. The cost of such an undertaking is estimated at £250 per head. The Society of Friends is understood to be interested in supporting this scheme financially if other Christian organisations and individuals would also assist in raising the necessary funds.

There are, of course, many instances where other factors, in addition to that of capital, complicate the issue, but attention is particularly drawn to the information given above to show that for many of the refugees dealt with by the High Commission the problem of relating qualifications to suitable environment is proving solvable if only the required funds are forthcoming.

CHRISTIAN UNITY

Further stimulation has been given to ecumenical effort by the holding of interdenominational services in different countries. A service in the interests of Christian unity took place recently in New York at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, under the auspices of a committee representing the International Missionary Council, the Lausanne Movement, the Universal Christian Council, the World Alliance and the World's Student Christian Federation. Leaders from these different movements spoke and bore impressive witness to the common purpose of all international Christian activity.

On the occasion of the opening of the annual conference of the Fellowship of Unity in Egypt, a service was held in the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Nicholas, Cairo. Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist and other clergy took part in the service, which was conducted in English and in Arabic and the sermon preached in Greek by the Orthodox Archbishop of Aksum on a text taken from the Orthodox liturgy of St. John Chrysostom : " Let us love one another, that with one accord we may confess. "

Service of Documentation

Twelve new dossiers have been added to the documentation service. The following are among the most important : Five-Year Plans and Conditions of Work in U.S.S.R. ; The Course of American Recovery ; International Voluntary Civil service ; Manufacture of and Trade in Arms ; Employment of Leisure ; the Quakers.

Gift from the Salvation Army

The Universal Christian Council has received the following volumes from the Salvation Army. They are obtainable at the Library of the International Christian Study Centre, 2, rue de Montchoisy, Geneva:

By the General : ,, *Talks with Officers* ", 1921, 193 p. ; " *The Salvation Army : Handbook of Doctrine* ", 1927, 185 p. ; " *Orders and Regulations for Officers of the S.A.*", 1925, 566 p. ; " *Orders and Regulations for Corps Officers of the S.A.* ", 1930, 352 p. ; " *The Salvation Army Directory* ", 125 p. ; " *An Outline of Salvation Army History* ", 1932, 91 p. ; " *The Salvation Army Year Book* 1934 ", 1934, 155 p.

Harold Begbie : " *Broken Earthenware*—", London, 192 p. ; " *Pots cassés : Scènes de la vie réelle* ", Paris, 1929, 332 p. ; Bramwell Booth : " *Echoes and Memories* ", 1928, 223 p. ; F. Booth Tucker : " *Muktifauj, or Forty Years with the Salvation Army in India and Ceylon* ", 256 p. ; E. J. Higgins : " *Stewards of God* ", 53 p. ; Arthur Copping : " *Banners in Africa* ", 1933, 152 p. ; Hugh Redwood : " *God and the Shadows*", 1932, 128 p. ; " *God in the Slums* ", 148 p. ; " *Dieu dans les Bas-Fonds* ", 1932, 197 p. ; " *Kingdom Come* " 1934, 128 p. ; E. Douglas and Mildred Duff : " *Commissioner Railton* ", 1920, 254 p. ; *F. A. Mackenzie* : " *Booth-Tucker, Sadhu and Saint* ", 1930, 195 p. ; Matilda Hatcher : " *The Untouchables* ", 141 p. ; " *The Undauntables* ", 1933, 208 p. ; Mrs. Colonel Carpenter : " *Commissioner Lawley* ", 1924, 219 p. ; " *Notable Officers of the S.A.* ", 1927, 168 p. ; Minnie L. Carpenter : " *L'Ange Adjudante* ", Paris, 1928, 332 p. ; " *The Angel Adjutant* ", London 1928, 185 p. ; Evald Malmström : " 50 *ars Fälttag* " ; Harold Begbie : " *William Booth, Founder of the Salvation Army* ", 1920 (2 vols) 446 p., 466 p. ; F. de L. Booth-Tucker : " *The Life of Catherine Booth* ", 1893, 3 vols. 431 p. 440 & 467 p. ; Bramwell C. H. Booth : " *These Fifty Years* ", 1929, 655 p.

BOOK REVIEWS

Books received

The I.L.O. Year Book 1933, Geneva 1934. 560 pages 12/6 or $3.—.

Draft Conventions and Recommendations, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 18 Sessions held 1919-1934. I.L.O., Geneva, 1934, 331 pages. Price 3/6d. or $1.—.

*The League from Year to Year (*1931-1932*).* Informatin Section, League of Nations, Geneva. 246 pages. Price 1/-.

*The League from Year to Year (*1933*).* Information Section, League of Nations, Geneva. 257 pages. Price 1/-.

World's Y.W.C.A. Study Course Papers. A series of short papers, in the form of notes, designed to make available for a wider circle some of the material which formed the basis of the Study Course for Leaders held at Geneva, August 1934.

No. I. (a) *Opening Address* (b) *The Church*, by Mlle de Dietrich. No. II (a) *The Task of Christianity Today*, by the Rev. J. R. Coates; (b) *Morning Worship Addresses on "Vocation and Service"*. No. III. *La Tâche du Christianisme dans le Monde Moderne*, by M. le Pasteur P. Maury; (b) *Méditations: "Vocation", "Service"*. No. IV. *The Problems of Modern Youth with regard to (a) Family Life (b) Sex Life, and the Responsibilities of our Leaders*, by Miss Ruth Kenyon and Madame Henri Johannot. No. V. *Education and Action for Peace*, by Miss Mary Dingman. No. VI. *Nationalism*, by Dr. W. A. Visser't Hooft. No. VII. *The Christian Approach to International, Social and Economic Problems*, by Miss Ruth Kenyon. No. VIII. *Notes on Mr. P. W. Martin's lectures on Economic Problems* (stencilled).

Price for the series : 2 Swiss francs, post free, from the World's Y.W.C.A., 2, rue Daniel-Colladon, Geneva.

Macartney, C.A.: National States and National Minorities, (Oxford University Press), 1934. 18/-.

Parkes, James: The Conflict of the Church and the Synagogue, (Socino Press, London), 1934. 10/6d.

Keller, Professor A: Religion and the European Mind. (Lutterworth Press, London), 1934 6/-.

Professor Keller was invited in 1933 by the Stone Federation to give a series of lectures to the Theological Seminary of Princeton, U.S.A. In response to a request that these lectures should be made available to a wider public, he has reproduced and expanded them still further in this extremely interesting volume. The book reveals once more the author's wide knowledge and balanced, objective critical powers; his familiarity with theological and philosophic thought and his numerous personal contacts with theologians and churchmen in many countries.

It is a very real picture that is painted here of the present-day currents in the Protestant theology of the countries of Europe, on a background of the political systems and moral conceptions of the times. Professor Keller analyses first of all the repercussions of the revolutions in Russia, Spain, Italy and Germany on the life and thought of the Churches, and then the conflict between what he calls "lay religion" and the Evangelical Christian. He shows how this conflict has compelled Lutheran and Reformed churchmen to rethink with one accord the faith that has been handed down to them and how it has evoked a vigorous reaction on the part of the growing number of people who are coming back to the spirit of the Reformation and are standing up to the modern secularised attitude to the doctrine of revelation.

The two last chapters, on the fundamental causes of the conflict of Protestantism in Germany, and on the Church in a changing world, are of particular present-day interest, and raise questions on which the action of the Church is urgently required. In writing of the Universal Christian Council and of its Research Department, with their basic purpose of stimulating the Churches to coordinate their social efforts, Professor Keller stresses the importance of studying fundamentally the principles on which the problems in question rest. Reproduced in the appendices to the volume are a number of documents essential to an understanding of the conflict in the German Evangelical Church. This book is warmly to be recommended. From the first page to the last, it cannot fail to interest those who, whether theologians or not, are in search of a survey of the current trends and problems in Protestant Europe.

Macmurray, John: Freedom in the Modern World. 4th edition. Faber and Faber, London, 1934. 215 pages. 6/-.

In this book, in which are reproduced two series of wireless talks, on "The Modern Dilemma" and "Reality and Freedom" respectively, the well-known English philosopher sets out to explain, in the simplest and most understandable form possible, some of the basic philosophic questions in the world of today in relation to the problem of freedom, and to penetrate their ultimate implications. He has achieved this purpose in a most remarkable manner. In vivid style, and with constant reference to the "self-evidences" of everyday life, the dilemma of our modern culture, in the economic, emotional and religious realm, is laid bare, and the Christian faith indicated as the only possible solution. In a further discussion of the different types of freedom, the author develops his main thesis, namely, that the increasing mechanisation and tendency to state control of everything and the growing inclination of community life to crumble, are symptoms of another and far more deeply rooted loss of freedom. Only by winning back personal freedom, in fellowship with other free individuals, shall we find the solution of our dilemma and the true future of our culture. And this realistic, personal character of freedom is nothing else than the eternal Christian message, put in a form that is intelligible to mankind of today.

Marr, H.: Die Massenwelt im Kampf um ihre Form. Hamburg, 1934, Hanseatische Verlagsanstalt 578 pages. RM. 9.—.

The contents of this book, which reveal a remarkable insight, provide valuable material for present-day ecumenical study work on the problem of church and state, on the question of a Christian anthropology and on the group of questions related to the kingdom of God and history. In an extraordinarily intuitive manner, Dr. Marr, professor of sociology at Frankfurt University, makes a penetrating analysis of the contemporary "*Vermassung*", the tendency of all organic community life to dissolve into an atomistic mass-life, which is a problem of the first importance for the church in its whole life and task. How the breaking-up of real community forms in economic, national and state life has come about, what causes and backgrounds have here to be considered, is presented from various aspects and from precisely those viewpoints which are essential for the formation of a Christian judgment. The same treatment is afforded in the essays on the attitude of the industrial masses to the problem of work and vocation, on democracy and bureaucracy, and especially in the very up-to-date studies on proletarian socialism in the transformations of its ideology, which has become, as a matter of fact, a secularised messianism. It is particularly significant that through this clear

analysis new presuppositions are created for a profitable discussion on the real functions of nation and state and on the way to new community forms. This is specially clear in the last essay, (on National Socialism and the totalitarian state), which, among other things, is remarkable for a thorough examination of Fascism, National Socialism and Bolshevism, and indicates definite starting points for the vast educational tasks which here emerge for Christians and churches, Dr. Marr's whole interpretation of the present situation and its development being based on a Christian view of life.

Ekklesia. A series of self-presentations of Christian Churches. Edited by Fr. Siegmund-Schultze, Gotha, Leopoldplatz. (In German).

The Evangelical Churches of the Netherlands. Vol. 9. 18 essays. 176 pages. Subscription price : RM. 5.50 (single copies : RM. 8.—).

The Evangelical Churches of Switzerland. Vol. 10. 15 essays. 253 pages. RM. 8.— (RM. 11.—).

The Evangelical Church in Austria. Vol. 19. 13 essays. 168 pages. RM 5.50 (RM. 7.50).

These three further volumes thoroughly fulfil the expectations raised with the publication of the first volume, on the Church of England. They provide deep insight into the wealth of variety existing in Protestantism. The guilt and misery of ecclesiastical schism are in no way palliated here and the struggle for the true unity of the Church of Christ in these various forms of church life comes out all the more strongly. In these Churches such unity seems indeed to be finding real confirmation and promise for the future in the life and work of the younger generation. This impression emerges in a particularly happy manner from the contributions on the participation of the Churches in question in the Ecumenical Movement. It is interesting to see how the living membership of these Churches in the one Church of Christ also finds expression in the close relationship existing between a particular Church and a particular nation. Specially important, and of actual moment for immediate ecumenical study work is the clear presentation of the relations between Church and State, and of present-day theological trends of thought in these Churches. The essays on the manifold differentiations of Christian life within these Churches as regards the attitude adopted towards the education problem, social questions, and as regards the discussion with Catholicism and the special tasks of the mission field, give a comprehensive picture of these Churches' richness of life. One can only continue to hope that all those who are concerned with the Church itself will get hold of these books, the wealth of which can only be indicated here in slight outline.

New Tracts for New Times. (Morehouse Publishing Company, Milwaukee, Wis., U.S.A.), 1934. Price: 10 cents each, postpaid. Subscription price : $1.00 per year postpaid. Overseas subscription price: 5/- or $1.25 postpaid, for nos. 1-13 inclusive.

This series of tracts, the first six numbers of which we have received, and for which Anglo-Catholic leaders in America are responsible, was stimulated by the visit to America of the Rev. W. G. Peck, of Manchester, England, to deliver the Hale Lectures on The Social Implications of the Oxford Movement, and by the Catholic Congress held in Philadelphia in October 1933. The contributors include : the Rev. Julian D. Hamlin, on " The Call to Action on the Part of the Churches "; the Rev. W. G. Peck, on " The End of Our Era "; the Rev. D. A. McGregor, on " The Sacred Humanity "; the Rev. Frank Gavin, on " The Church and Society in the Second Century ", the Rev. A. D. Kelley, on " The Mass and the Masses "; Mrs. Mary K. Simkhovitch, on " The Red Festival."

The predominating note is one of urgent appeal for the practice of a Catholic sociology, for a realisation of the social character of the Christian Church and, therefore, for release from the individualism through which the Church has allowed itself to be associated with acquisitive, profit-making conditions. Christianity is challenged to adhere, without any compromise or whittling down, to the standards set by the Early Church, The opportunity is revealed as unique, with the world at the parting of the ways — " either a world shaped to become the Kingdom of God, or pandemonium ". The stress, running through these booklets, on man's fellowship in a social group and on the search for a super-individual ideal, upholds logically the presentation of the Catholic conception of the Eucharist as the central point of a family life and as a corporate, non-individual act, and reveals very clearly the Catholic conviction that Sacramentalism, in all its reality, provides the starting point for the fulfilment of the Church's social task.

Fradkin, Elvira K.: The Air Menace and the Answer. (The Macmillan Company, New York), 1934. Price $3.00. 331 pages.

On the basis of a very thorough study of technical and statistical sources, Mrs. Fradkin presents her facts and conclusions in a manner, dispassionate and free from all panic, that cannot fail to appeal to the common sense of all pacifically minded people. Since aviation and chemical methods of attack in any future war are to be regarded as mutually complementary and dependent, Mrs. Fradkin devotes considerable attention to chemical industry, so inextricably interwoven with daily life, so rapidly and extensively convertible for war purposes, that its potentialities become " the sword of Damocles hanging over our heads, suspended and controlled by the hair-breadth of the strength of the peoples' desire for peace." The characteristics of different types of gases : lingering durability of effect, invisibility, tendencies to collect at low altitudes, effect on the human skin, powers of contagion through infected clothing, are considered with a matter-of-factness that might have come from the pen of a military expert, were it not that the author is concerned to prove to the non-combattant the futility and self-contradiction of the military expert's ideal of " making war more humane ".

In studying the air problem, Mrs. Fradkin declares the principal danger to lie in the policy of government subsidy for commercial aviation with a view to the rapid conversion of the commercial machine into a bomber in time of war. She produces figures indicative of national commercial rivalry and of the

struggle for air supremacy. But it is interesting to find her bearing out once more the opinion expressed very generally by those who travel by air, that real international-mindedness prevails among airmen themselves, and urging that, on the basis of this spirit, some form of internationalisation of commercial aviation must be brought about, and " planned friendliness " between nations substituted for national competition and its devastating consequences.

Les Objecteurs de Conscience devant la Loi. (Conscientious Objectors and the Law), (Research Department of the Universal Christian Council, 2, rue de Montchoisy, Geneva), January, 1935. 38 pages. Price : Sw. fr. 0.50 (post paid : 0.60). Post cheque No. : 1.572.

One of the most acute forms assumed by the present-day problem of *Church and State*, or rather, of *the Christian in his attitude to the State*, is certainly this one of conscientious objection to military service. It is a question that is also concerning the World Alliance for International Friendship through the Churches.

The pamphlet announced above is purely documentary and contains no comments. In it are given the full texts, except for provisions of secondary interest, of the legislation relating to civil service for conscientious objectors in Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, the U.S.S.R., and information on a similar service which exists in Finland, the United States and Great Britain. So far as obtainable, statistics have been included which show the number of conscientious objectors. As examples of countries in which such civil service does not exist, an account is given of the repressive system applied to conscientious objectors by France, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia.

The pamphlet opens with a general survey of these various legislations and with the report of the discussions on conscientious objection which took place at the disarmament conference.

Oecumenica. Volume I, No. 2. June 1934. (S.P.C.K., Northumberland Avenue, London ; or, Les Editeurs Réunis, 6 rue Daviel, Paris XIII). Annual subscription : 15 French francs, or 4/-. Single numbers 4 francs or 1/-.

Included among the contributors to the second number of this Anglican quarterly, issued in the French language under the auspices of the Church of England Council for Foreign Relations, are : the Rev. H. Beevor, one of the Librarians of Pusey House, Oxford, who writes on : " The Catholic Prudence of Queen Elizabeth and Anglican Orders " ; Archdeacon Storr, on the Oxford Movement ; Fr. Trenholme, of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, on Fr. Benson, the founder of the Order. Dr. Brilioth, Dean of Lund, Sweden, contributes an account of the Eucharistic renaissance in Anglicanism, and Dr. N. Zernov an article of ecumenical value on Eastern and Western Christianity. The publication further emphasises its ecumenical character with reports on religious events and developments in the Balkan countries, France, Germany, Japan and Sweden. A particular feature of this number is a generously large review section.

Tiplady, Thomas : *Hymns from Lambeth.* (The Epworth Press, 25-35 City Road, London, E.C.1. Price 2d. Music edition : paper 2/6 ; cloth 3/6).

A new and revised edition of a collection of hymns suitable for use by groups and guilds and at meetings of Christian organisations. It contains 93 hymns and 90 different tunes, among them the famous " Finlandia " of Sibelius, melodies arranged from Schubert, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Haydn, and folk music of America, the British Isles, Germany and Russia.

Preces Oecumenicae. 1934. (Universal Christian Council, 2, rue de Montchoisy, Geneva). Price : Sw. fr. 0.50.

This booklet of prayers in English, French and German was printed for use at the meeting at Fanø in August last, and at future ecumenical gatherings. The selection has been made from prayers familiar in the Orthodox, Anglican and Continental Protestant forms of service. A limited number of copies are available for individual sale.

An Important Amalgamation in View

As we go to press, an account reaches us of the recent annual meeting of the British Council of the World Alliance for International Friendship. An important decision was taken by the Council to unite itself with the British Section of the Universal Christian Council ; this step has become almost inevitable owing to the close connection of the fields of work of the two organisations and will do much to unify the representative international witness of the Church.

The Council also passed a resolution expressing its satisfaction at the recent economic arrangement between Great Britain and the Irish Free State and appealed to the Churches to do their utmost to promote mutual cooperation and friendliness, which shall lead to a lasting reconciliation between the two countries. The Council also resolved to take action in regard to the forthcoming Royal Commission on the Trade in Arms.

L'IMPRIMEUR-GÉRANT, GRANCHAMP, ANNEMASSE — 111-2-35